

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today concerning Dubai Ports World's pending acquisition of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), a company that provides port services at six major eastern shipping ports.

I am asking that your Administration do what the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) did not do, prevent this sale. While I understand how the CFIUS process operates, nevertheless fundamental mistakes were made that permitted this proposed acquisition in the post-9/11 world to be approved.

Under this proposed acquisition, services at ports located in Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Maryland, and Florida would be provided by Dubai Ports World. It has also been brought to my attention today that P&O port services at both Beaumont and Corpus Christi, Texas may also be transferred to Dubai Ports World if this transaction is not stopped by your Administration.

As a reminder, the Port of Philadelphia has been designated as a "strategic port" for the movement of military materiel. This port is an integral part of our response to the events of 9/11 and the Global War on Terror. The Port of Philadelphia responds to the needs of our military commanders by rapidly and flexibly processing and shipping critical supplies for military personnel serving in harm's way. By permitting the performance of port services by an entity with a checkered past in combating radical Islamic extremism and corruption, the U.S. is in essence outsourcing its vital port functions and security services.

Again, the CFIUS review process is flawed. As a member of the Committee on Banking, I look forward to updating this body to bring its oversight of business acquisitions to the 21st Century, a century that includes the realities of the post-9/11 world.

Given the importance of this pending acquisition, I urge that you move expeditiously to intervene and use whatever powers might be at your disposal to halt the transaction.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rick Santorum
United States Senate